UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1999/108
2 February 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 2 FEBRUARY 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to forward herewith a letter dated 29 January 1999 addressed to you by Mr. Aleksandar Dimitrov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Macedonia, concerning the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Naste CALOVSKI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 29 January 1999 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia addressed to the Secretary-General

Allow me to present my compliments and to acquaint you with the arguments of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia for the extension of the stay of UNPREDEP for another six months, after 28 February 1999, under the same mandate and with the same composition and structure.

Functioning as a factor of deterrence in the period thus far, UNPREDEP has greatly contributed towards the stabilization of the situation in the whole region, which has directly affected the attainment of larger level of security in my country. However, as you have underlined in one of your previous reports, the peace and stability of both the Republic of Macedonia and the other countries still depend on the regional developments. By this I primarily refer to the danger of spillover of the military conflicts from Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Kosovo) into the neighboring countries. Let me recall that in 1992 the UN preventive forces were deployed in the Republic of Macedonia exactly for the purpose of preventing the spillover of armed conflicts from the neighborhood. In the meanwhile the situation in our neighborhood unfortunately has not improved. On the contrary it has by far deteriorated. In this regard, the following facts should be taken into consideration:

Unfortunately, Kosovo continues to be an active crisis area, without any indications of calming down. For quite some time, direct military conflicts in Kosovo have been going on which could easily spillover into the whole region and cause its further destabilization. Your last report of 24 December 1998 is yet another confirmation of the deteriorating situation in Kosovo. The non-compliance with the Holbrooke-Milosevic agreement suggests that with the forthcoming spring more open and more intensive conflicts may be expected. At the same time it could be envisaged that each of the two parties will attempt to gain a final victory at the battle field. The Government of the Republic of Macedonia deeply appreciates and welcomes the efforts of the international community aimed at finding a political solution to the crisis, as well as the deployment of the OSCE Kosovo Verification Mission. In this regard, the Republic of Macedonia fully contributes towards the crisis' resolution, which is manifested by stationing of NATO Extraction Forces on its territory. Also I would like to emphasize the principled position of the Republic of Macedonia that the Kosovo crisis be resolved , in a peaceful manner and through a political dialogue, respecting the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, by full observance of the human rights of all people, by wider autonomy for Kosovo, and with more intensive engagement of the international community.

Furthermore, the Kosovo crisis has led to an increase in the tensions at the Albanian-Yugoslav border. The conflicts have already claimed the lives of many victims and have greatly increased the sense of insecurity and distrust in the region. It is a fact that the situation in Albania is still not stable, what reflects on the border situation with the neighboring countries. This greatly burdens the efforts of the Macedonian authorities aimed at preventing arms trafficking for Kosovo, an obligation stipulated in the UN Security Council resolution 1160, of 31 March 1998, in which the Council called upon all countries to prevent the sale or supply of arms and related matériel of all types to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. In addition the UN Security Council resolution 1186, of 21 July 1998, extended the mandate of UNPREDEP with the monitoring of arms embargo against FRY, imposed by the aforementioned resolution.

Finally, despite all the efforts on our part, the Macedonian-Yugoslav border is not demarcated yet, which in the context of the present developments in Kosovo, and in view of the fact that part of the border extends in the direction of Kosovo, additionally complicates the political and security situation in our country.

In accordance with the provisions of UN Security Council resolution 1186 (1998), the military component of UNPREDEP has recently been completed from 750 to 1050 troops, which enables it to adequately fulfill the tasks within its mandate. I would like to welcome the appointment of the new Head of Mission, Mr. Fernando Valenzuela Marzo, with whom the Macedonian authorities have already established excellent cooperation. At the same I would like to express my gratitude to the former Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of Mission, Mr. Henryk Sokalski, for his successful work.

I believe that the UN Security Council member states this time too shall appropriately assess the security situation in the region and shall adopt a resolution for extension of the stay of UNPREDEP for another six months, under the same mandate and with the same composition and structure, which we are especially interested in. The Government of the Republic of Macedonia considers the cooperation with UNPREDEP thus far to be very successful. This is a result in particular of the Mission's mandate and composition itself. I am convinced that in the future the cooperation will continue in the same direction.